Husband Fights To Have Safety Policies Updated After Losing His Wife

On June 28, 2016, Paul Riehm gave his wife a kiss goodbye as he walked out the door to head over to Beaver Creek Reservoir for her regular walk. Paul fully expected to greet Lorri when she walked back through the door of their home, later that day. Instead, Paul was met by someone else with news that shocked and devastated him.

Beaver Creek Reservoir is a designated public recreational area just outside of Clyde, Ohio. The 110 acre reservoir has about a one and a half mile walking trail located along the top of the embankment that surrounds it. Like many other people, Lorri would regularly go to the reservoir to exercise since it was scenic, safe, and free from traffic. On June 28, 2016, volunteer firefighter Seth Knieriemen was at home when he received a call from the Green Springs Rural Volunteer Fire Department (“R.V.F.D.”) that two boaters had capsized their boat at the Beaver Creek Reservoir and needed assistance. Seth walked out the door of his home and headed to the station. Among the equipment the R.V.F.D. dispatched to the scene was a Ford F-350 pick-up truck (“Brus Truck”) that had previously been modified and equipped for use with brush/field fires. However, the modifications the Department made completely eliminated the driver’s side view. R.V.F.D. also sent a rescue boat but had failed to insure it was properly fueled before it left the station. Once on scene, Mr. Knieriemen and others visually located the capsized boat on the opposite side of the reservoir. They launched the rescue boat and drove to where the rescue team was waiting. Unfortunately, not only had the R.V.F.D. members failed to insure the rescue boat was fueled, they also brought the wrong fuel with them. After realizing this, Mr. Knieriemen and others had to take the Brus Truck back to the other side of the reservoir to get the proper fuel.

In the meantime, the two boaters had been safely helped out of the water and placed in the care of the Green Springs Rural Volunteer Fire Department. After finding the correct fuel, Mr. Knieriemen and other R.V.F.D. members again drove on the embankment to the other side of the reservoir. The Brus Truck was parked and everyone exited it, including Mr. Knieriemen. Mr. Knieriemen proceeded to take the fuel down the embankment to the waiting boat to refuel it. During this time, Lorri, who had been walking along the narrow embankment path, came upon the parked and unoccupied Brus Truck, which was facing her. She walked around it. She walked past Mr. Knieriemen, who was in plain view of everyone. Inexplicably, after Lorri had walked past the Brus Truck and returned to the walking path, she tripped and fell, fell into the water, and got it in, and without having any view behind the vehicle or riding measures to ensure safety, she drowned in the reservoir.

On January 28, 2016, Paul went to the door, expecting to see his wife return. Instead, he was met by a Deputy with the news that his wife was killed and that he needed to come and identify her body. In the meantime, Mr. Knieriemen, as did other members of the R.V.F.D., walked back through the door of their respective homes. They offered no apologies and no condolences - only excuses.

When Paul sought answers he only found dead-ends. He sought the assistance of lawyers to help him, but was told there is nothing that can legally be done. He then reached out to Paul. Paul shared with us that he had occurred. He shared with us what had occurred. He shared with us who Lorri was and what she did for her community. The heart of this firm broke for Paul and we decided to help him get answers and see that poli-
TPS Proud Student of the Month

Rogers High teacher Shane Kokensparger nominated his student William Tyson for his extraordinary dedication to his education, despite having special needs and despite being moved around in the foster care system. William was home with a $150 Visa gift card and the TPS Proud Student of the Month award.

“This student has bounced from foster home to foster home at the same time not missing school,” Shane said in his nomination. “When William comes to school he is neat, clean, well-mannered, and gives his very best. He is friendly to all and never rude. He is able to manage his daily functions with little direction. His trustworthiness is top notch. He has a great attitude and work ethic.”

The TPS Proud Student and Teacher of the Month contest is a joint effort between Toledo Public Schools and Charles E. Boyk Law Offices, LLC. Each month, one teacher and one student from one of TPS’s high schools will be awarded with a $150 Visa gift card. Stay tuned for winners from next month’s school, Toledo Technology Academy.

PRETTY PAWS AT BOYK LAW

Boyk Law Litigation Paralegal Nancy Thomas and her French Bulldog Penny got in the Christmas spirit with matching sweaters on Ugly Sweater Day on December 22nd.

How Is Your Credit Score Really Determined?

By Fred Boyk

10% - Top of Credit. It is best to have a variety of types of credit. For instance, three to five credit cards, a home loan, and a mortgage could maximize this factor which amounts to 10% of your credit score.

10% - Credit Inquiries. A lot of creditors inquiring about you can negatively affect your score. These are called “hard” inquiries and determine 10% of your credit score. If you shop around for a car loan by going to five different banks who then make inquiries, your credit score decreases. If you check your credit score yourself, this is known as a “soft” inquiry and does not impact your score.

If you are facing an already-low credit score and debt that is increasingly difficult to get out from under, contact our office at 419-241-1395 and we would be happy to help provide you with options.

RECIPE: Layla’s Lemon Rice Soup with Chicken

With temperatures in northeast Ohio dropping and springtime seeming so far away, this soup is sure to warm away the winter blues. Often served in traditional Greek restaurants and Coney Island diners, this soup is also often referred to as “Avgolemono.”

INGREDIENTS
- 4 cups of chicken broth
- ½ cup of uncooked rice
- 2 lemons, juiced
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups of cooked, shredded chicken breast

DIRECTIONS
1. Bring the broth to a boil in a large stockpot. Reduce heat to low and add the rice. Simmer for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally, then remove from heat.
2. In a separate bowl, lightly whisk together the eggs and lemon juice. Slowly add the mixture to the warm broth, one tablespoon at a time, whisking constantly so the egg does not cook.
3. Add the cooked chicken and stir to warm through. Best served with oyster crackers.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM OUR FAVORITE CLIENT, MISTLETOE THE COLLIE!

Readers may remember Mistletoe “Misy” Arras from our February 2016 issue of the Boyk Bulletin where we told Misy’s story of becoming a volunteer Pet Therapy dog after her owners, Joe and Cecilia, were injured in a horrible car accident on the way to adopt her. Joe, Cecilia, and Misy are all doing well and Boyk Law was so pleased to receive this photo in the Christmas card that was sent to our office. Thanks, Misy!
**TPS Proud Student of the Month**

Rogers High teacher Shane Kokensparger nominated his student William Tyas for his extraordinary dedication to his education, despite having special needs and despite being moved around in the foster care system. William won home with a $150 Visa gift card and the TPS Proud Student of the Month award.

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**Pretty Paws at Boyk Law**

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**Cases of Interest: January 2017**

*Dockworker Struck By Tugger Boat, Faces Surgery & Nerve Damage*

Three weeks after our client was hit by a tugger boat, a blood clot developed at the site of injury. An MRI revealed the need for surgery but the Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation refused to approve the payment of the operation. Our client called Boyk Law and we were able to get approved for not only the surgery, but also for nerve problems that have resulted from the accident and affected her mobility, as well as approved for payments for the months that she was unable to work.

*Tenant Trips Over Metal Plate In Apartment Complex, Causes Fall & Need For Surgery*

The day after our client tripped and fractured a blood clot developed at the site of injury. Our client fell down 15 to 20 feet into four feet of raw sewage and was stuck for over an hour, causing horrible wounds and a serious E. coli infection that penetrated his bone. The grate he was working on was found to be rusted and to have extensive corrosion that made it unsuitable for use. Meanwhile, the entrance to the underground parking was open, allowing raw sewage to flow through. Best served with oyster crackers.

*Man Falls Through Rusty Gate Into Raw Sewage While On The Job*

Our client fell down 15 to 20 feet into four feet of raw sewage and was unable to cross the gate. The grate he was working on was found to be rusted and to have extensive corrosion that made it unsuitable for use. Meanwhile, the entrance to the underground parking was open, allowing raw sewage to flow through. Best served with oyster crackers.

**Recipe:** Layla’s Lemon Rice Soup with Chicken

With temperatures in northwest Ohio dropping and springtime seeming so far away, this soup is sure to warm away the winter blues. Often served in traditional Greek restaurants and Coney Island diners, this soup is also often referred to as “Avgolemono.”

**Ingredients**

- 4 cups of chicken broth
- ½ cup of uncooked rice
- 2 lemons, juiced
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups of cooked, shredded chicken breast

**Directions**

1. Bring broth to a boil in a large stockpot. Reduce heat to low and add the rice. Simmer for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally, then reduce heat to low and add the rice. Simmer for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally, then add the eggs and lemon juice. Slowly add the egg mixture to the warm broth, one tablespoon at a time, whisking constantly so the egg does not cook.

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**Merry Christmas From Our Favorite Client, Mistletoe The Collie!**

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Updated After Losing His Wife

Inexplicably, after Lorri had walked past the Brush Truck and returned to the walking path, the Brush Truck driver, Paul, got in it, and without having any view behind the vehicle or taking measures to ensure his safety, put it in reverse and backed up. Despite the screams of other R.V.F.D. members to stop, Mr. Knieriemen backed over Lorri, killing her. Mr. Knieriemen claimed he didn’t really see anything when he hit her. He only stopped because other R.V.F.D. members were screaming for him to do so.

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